



Easy Read



Easy to read version of the

# 2014–2018 National Social Protection Policy

## Important

There is a lot of information in this booklet, and most people will not want to read all of it. Instead, look at the contents list on page 3 to find things you are interested in reading about.

In this easy-to-read booklet we explain what some words mean. These words are shown in **purple** writing

If you see words in **purple** writing and are not sure what they mean, you can find out by looking in the words list at the back of the booklet (from page 19).

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## What the Minister says

My name is Emerine Kabanshi. I am the Minister of Community Development and Social Services.

The government must make sure that the citizens of Zambia are healthy, happy and successful.

Many Zambians find it hard to have a good quality of life. Families are finding it harder to meet their basic needs and to get services. In communities where people do not have enough money and food, life can be very difficult.

This policy will make sure that we have good services. It also shows how we want to provide **social protection** services.

We know it will be hard to improve the well-being and livelihood of vulnerable people. I ask all **stakeholders** to take part in making this policy and making the quality of life for our citizens better.

## What the Permanent Secretary says

My name is Professor Elwyn M Chomba. I am the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services.

We made this National Social Protection Policy after talking to a lot of people.

We talked to many different parts of the government. We talked to a lot of groups, *co-operating partners*, *civil society* organisations and the United Nations.

I want to thank everyone who was involved in making this policy.

I hope we can all keep working together while we make the National Social Protection Policy work.

## About this policy

The government wants to have fewer people living in **poverty**. It also wants everyone to feel supported when times are hard.

By working together, the government and other groups and organisations will make sure the National Social Protection Policy works well. This will help the poorest people in Zambia.

**Social protection** means the policies and rules that look after the lives and welfare of people, especially poor people.

People living in **poverty** cannot meet their basic needs and get basic services.

When people cannot get food, shelter, education or medication and healthcare they are more vulnerable. It is also harder for them to get protection from bad things like drought and diseases. Also, for people with jobs, particularly in the **informal economy**, things become harder when bad things happen.



**Social protection** helps people by doing things like this.

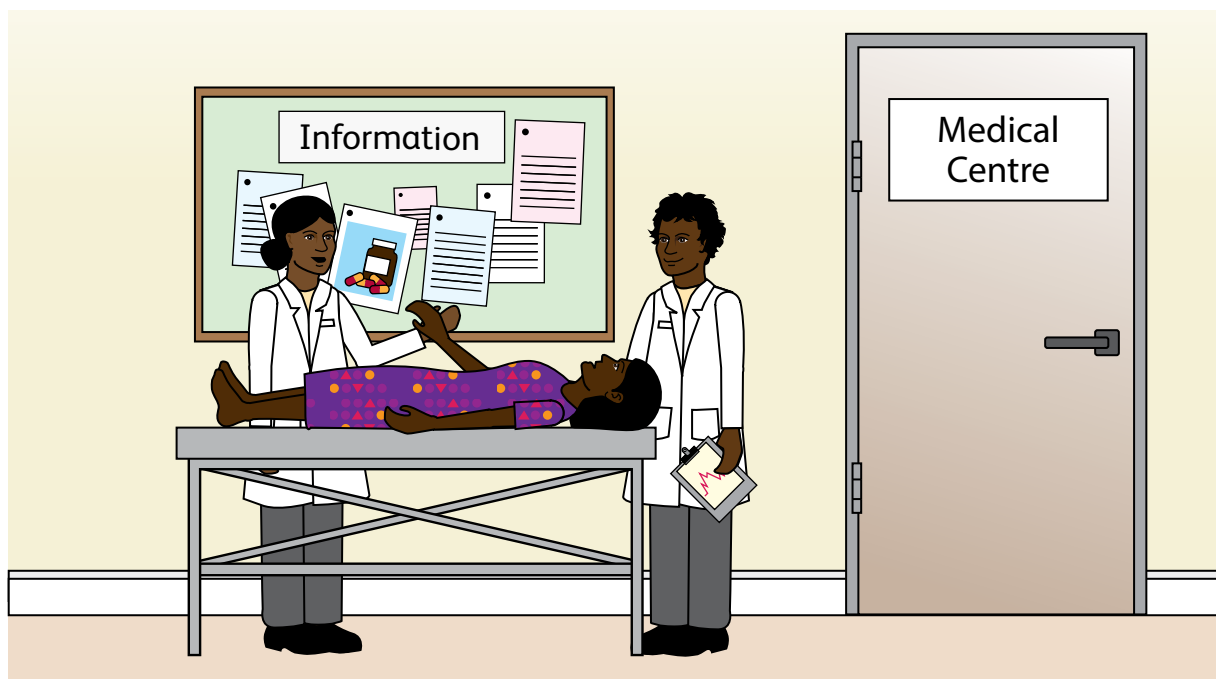
- Giving people money to buy food and access other essential goods (for example clothing, medicines) and services
- Helping people to get better health care and education.
- Giving support for farming.
- Giving training to people so they learn new skills to help them get a job or become **entrepreneurs**.

Doing these things helps people to feel protected and to get out of **poverty**. It also makes people feel respected and more equal members of their community.

It is also a good thing for people to live in dignity, particularly the elderly and persons with disabilities.

This will help Zambians both in the short term and in the long term. For example, if children have better food and can go to school they learn better. Or if people get money they can have a small business which helps them get out of **poverty**.

International law says that vulnerable people should get a minimum amount of money that lets them buy the food, clothes, medicines and services they need. People should also be able to get health care.



## About social protection programmes in Zambia

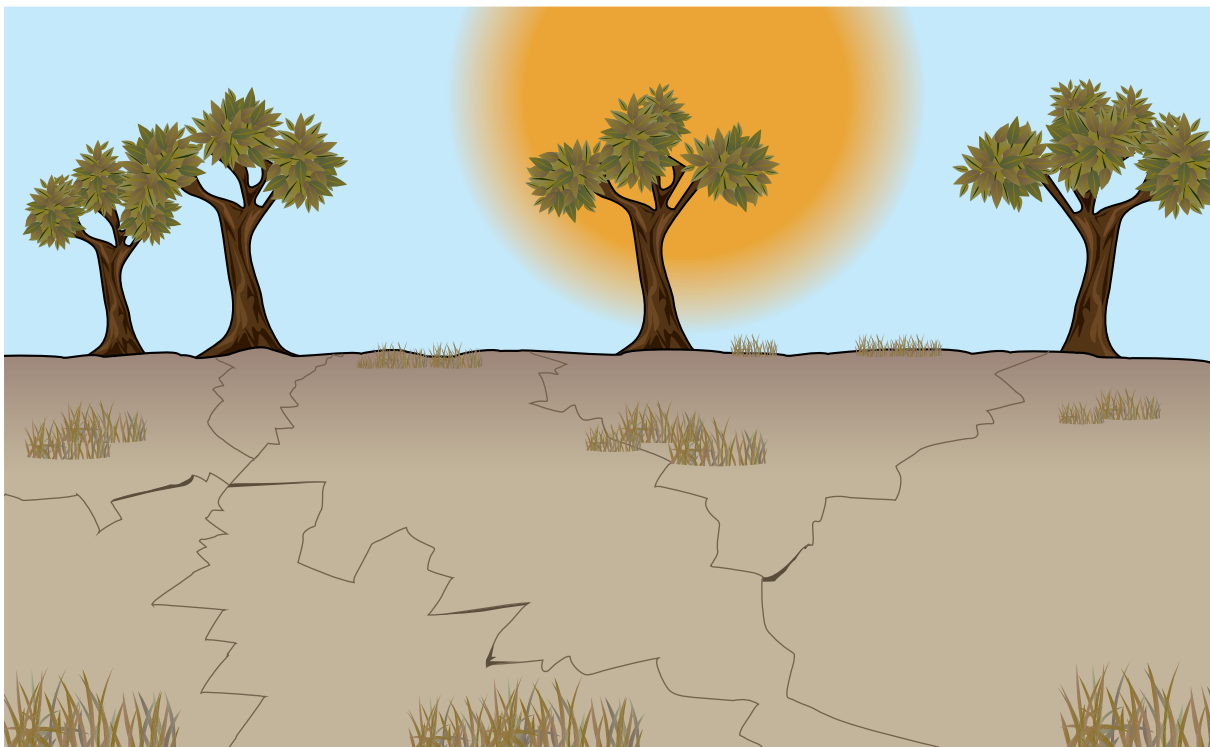
Social protection programmes do these things.

- Social protection programmes help people living in poverty to get better lives.
- Social protection programmes help people to take better care of themselves and their families.
- Social protection programmes help people to manage if something bad happens.

In Zambia, around 54 out of every 100 people live in poverty. In areas in the countryside around 77 out of every 100 people live in poverty. Around 41 out of every 100 people are the poorest people, who cannot afford to buy a basic food basket for the table.

Zambia is becoming a rich country. But most people live in poverty.

Because of the high number of people living in poverty in Zambia, they are very likely to suffer if bad things happen, like droughts and diseases, or if the price of goods goes up.





It is hard for families living in **poverty** to get things like health services, education, water and **sanitation**. Families also suffer because they do not eat properly and do not have enough healthy food. These families are trapped in **poverty**.

**Social protection** helps these families make their lives better and move out of **poverty** until they do not need help from the government anymore.

The government wants to get most people out of **poverty** by 2030.

At the moment, **social protection** programmes in Zambia do not reach enough people. Also, there have not been any checks made to see if the **social protection** programmes are working properly.

Not enough money has been given to **social protection** programmes. When there was not enough money available, the **social protection** programmes could not do what they promised to do.

Zambia must start spending more money on **social protection** programmes.

Some programmes have been set up to help poor people. The **social protection** programmes that are running at the moment are based on 4 things.

- **Social assistance.**
- **Social security.**
- Making a living and giving people the power to look after themselves.
- Protection – Keeping people safe

## Social assistance

**Social assistance** helps people who cannot work or meet their needs alone. **Social assistance** is things like cash and goods. It can also be things like not having to pay for something, this is called a **fee waiver**, or paying less than normal for something, this is called a **subsidy**.

This kind of help lets families get food and other basic goods and services. The government uses things like the Social Cash Transfer Scheme and the Home-Grown School Feeding Programme where schools and local farmers work together and produce meals for the school children. The government also help persons with disabilities live a better life.

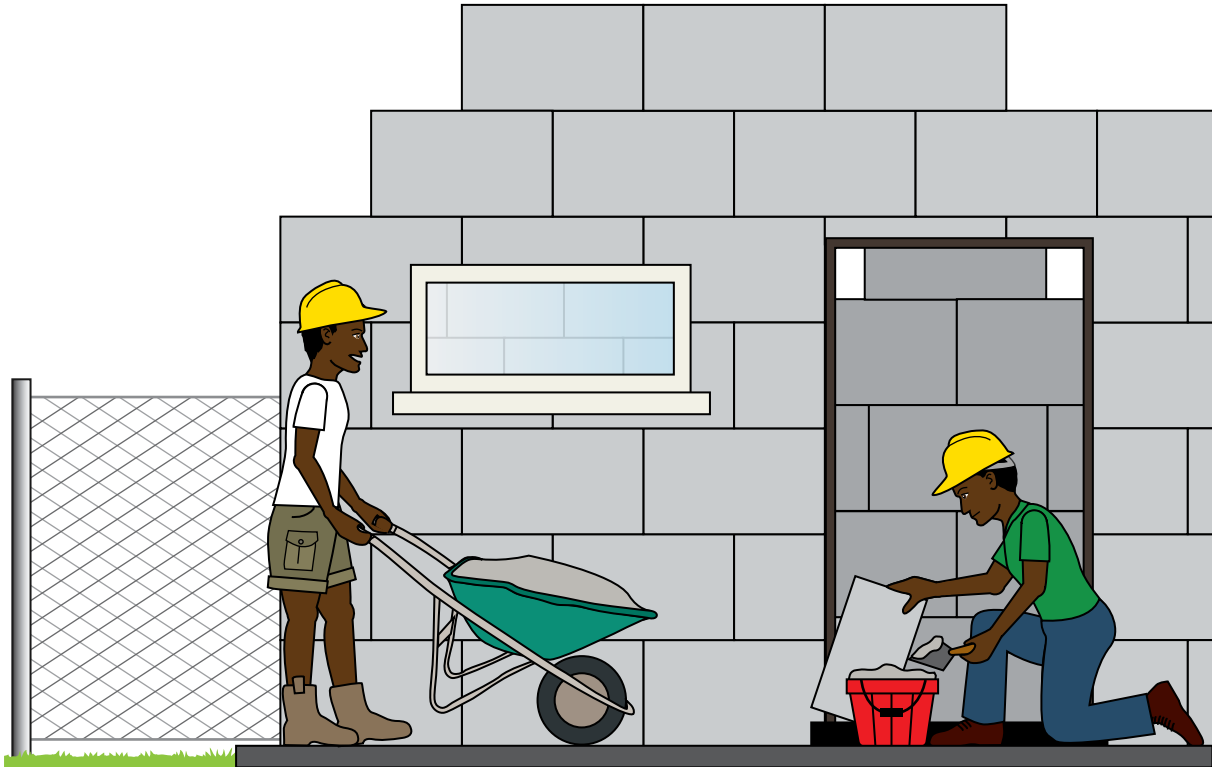


We have checked how **social assistance** programmes are working. They do not reach enough people. Also, they do not have enough money to help people as much as they should.

The law in Zambia does not cover **social assistance**. This means that the **social assistance** programmes do not work as well as they should.

## Social security

In Zambia, almost 90 out of every 100 workers work in the **informal economy**. The **informal economy** includes workers like domestic workers, small farmers and marketeers. Many are casual workers.



Most people who work in the **informal economy** do not get **social security** benefits.

The **social security** schemes in Zambia are schemes that people pay for and get benefit from in return. These are pension schemes for when people get older and retire. There is also the Worker's Compensation Fund which pays out money if someone gets injured at work or has to stop working because they got a work-related injury.

**Maternity protection** has to be better. There is not enough help for women who are pregnant or have just given birth to a child.

## Making a living and giving people the power to look after themselves

Programmes about making a living and giving people the power to look after themselves help families and groups who cannot make enough money to make a living by giving them access to credit, skills and help for farming.

An example of this is the Farmer Input Support Programme.

## Protection – Keeping people safe

It is very important to have good laws in Zambia.

It is very important to have good laws in Zambia that give people **human rights**. Some of the people who need better protection are women, children, orphans, persons with disabilities and elderly people and migrants.



## What we want to see

By 2030 we want Zambia to be a place where there are no very poor people.

## The basic ideas of the National Social Protection Policy

The basic ideas are shown below.

- Giving **social protection** to people is a very big job. The government and other groups and organisations need to work together to make sure the National Social Protection Policy works well.
- All our partners must know what the others are doing, so we are not doing the same thing.
- All our partners must take part in delivering **social protection** programmes.
- **Social protection** programmes must work in a way that is clear to everyone. They must also be able to say why something has been done. This will help people to trust the programmes. It will also get more people to take part.
- All the people of Zambia are born free and equal. They must be treated fairly and with respect.
- The **social protection** programmes must reach the poorest people and people who are most at risk. This will help everyone to become equal.
- Provinces and districts will have more responsibility in running **social protection** programmes.
- The **social protection** programmes must keep Zambian traditions and good cultural values.

- Everyone should get help, support and protection from their family and community.
- All the people of Zambia should be able to get food, water, sanitation, decent shelter, clothing, health care, work, education and training. They should also be able to live in a safe area.
- All the people of Zambia have the right to social protection.



## What we want the National Social Protection Policy to do

These are the main things we want the National Social Protection Policy to do.

### Social assistance

We will give food, or money to buy food and access essential goods and services, to the people who are most in need and help people get away from poverty.

We will do this by regularly helping the poorest people. We will make sure that social assistance programmes work with basic social services.

### Social Security and Social Health Insurance

We will have a social security system that is for everyone.

We will do this by having social health insurance for everyone. We will have maternity protection, pensions for workers when they get old or have an accident at work. The social security system will also include workers in the informal economy.

### Making a living and giving people the power to look after themselves

We will help people get skills, loans and other support they need to be entrepreneurs or find a job. We will especially help people who do not have a job, persons with disabilities and other very poor people in Zambia.

We will do this by giving people better nutrition, better employment, better skills, help with farming and help with managing their money.



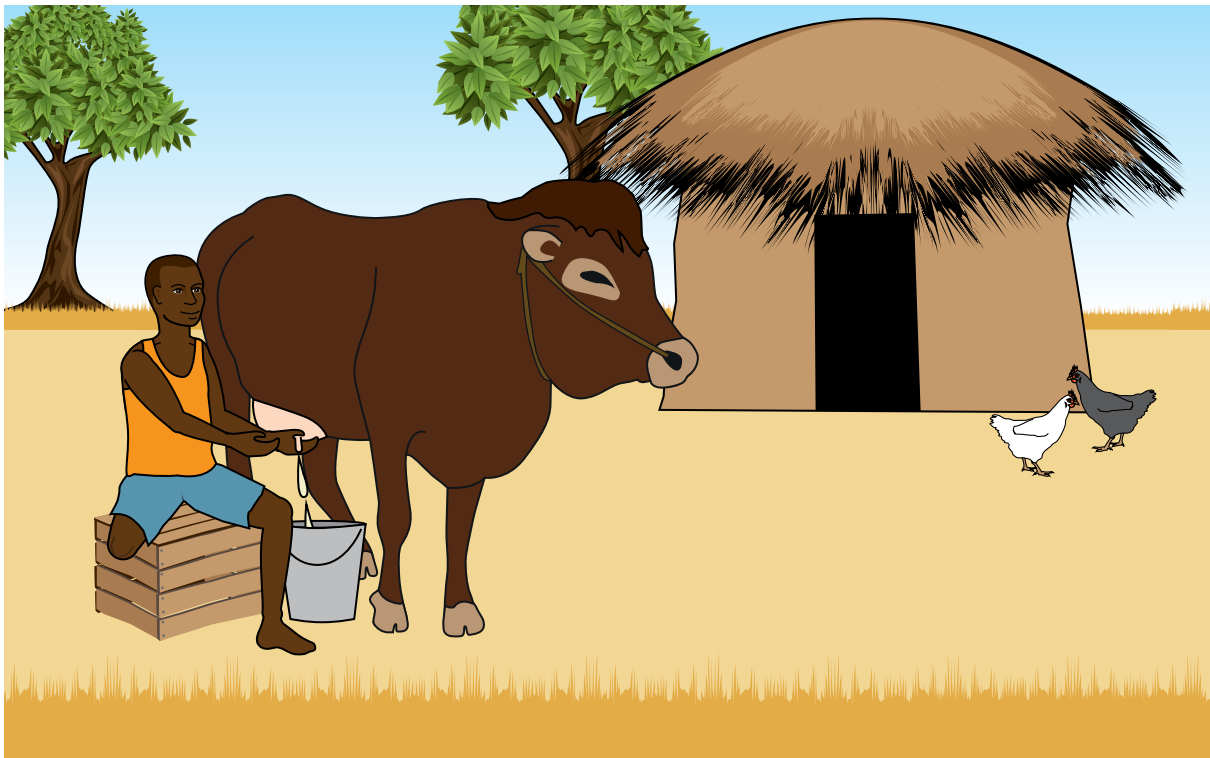
## Protection – Keeping people safe

We will protect people from abuse, violence, discrimination and neglect.

We will do this by making the laws better so that **vulnerable groups** are protected. We will also tell more people about the rights of **vulnerable groups**.

## Disability

We will make sure that persons with disabilities have a decent standard of living and the same chances as everyone else.



We will do this by giving persons with disabilities the same chance as everyone else to get basic **social services**, **assistive devices** and other help for disability-related needs.

We will get persons with disabilities to take part at all levels of government.



## Setting up the social protection programmes

Many ministries are taking part in setting up the social protection policy. We also need the judiciary, co-operating partners, the private sector, non-governmental organisations, faith-based organisations and civil society to work with us to make the policy work.



## The National Social Protection Policy and the law

The government will change some old laws and policies and set up some new laws and policies to help the National Social Protection Policy work.

The government will look at the international laws and make sure the rules are the same in the Zambian laws.

## Making sure the National Social Protection Policy runs properly

There must be enough money for the National Social Protection Policy to run properly. The government will make sure there are enough people to work with **social protection**.

The government will need to check that the National Social Protection Policy is working properly and reaching the people it is made for. These checks will be done often.

In the full policy there is a plan called an implementation plan. This shows what is being done and when it is being done.

## Word list

### Assistive devices

These are instruments, tools and equipment that people use to make life easier. For disabled people these include things like hearing aids, visual aids, crutches and wheelchairs.

### Co-operating partners

These are all the countries that work together with Zambia to support development.

### Basic sanitation

This is when human waste is kept away from people by a flush toilet to a piped sewer system or a septic tank or a pit latrine. It also includes providing safe drinking water.

### Civil society

**Civil society** is made up of groups and organisations that work in the interests of the people, but they are not part of government or the **private sector**.

### Entrepreneur

This is someone who sets up and runs a business.

### Fee waiver

This is when a person does not have to pay for something which normally costs money.

## **Human Rights**

These are rights everyone should have. Some examples are the right to life, the right to education and the right to be treated fairly and with respect.

## **Informal economy**

This includes workers like domestic workers, small farmers and marketeers. Many are casual workers. It also includes subsistence agriculture, which is when a farmer grows enough food to feed the farmer and their family but not enough to sell.

## **Maternity protection**

Pregnant women and women who have recently had a baby need protection to make sure no harm comes to their or their baby's health. They need time to give birth, to recover, and to nurse their children. They also need protection to make sure they do not lose their job simply because of pregnancy or maternity leave.

## **Nutrition**

This is food that is eaten to meet the body's needs and to keep the person in good health.

## **Poverty**

This is anyone who is very poor, has little or no money, or goods and no means of support.

## **Private sector**

These are businesses and groups that are run by people or groups and that make money out of their work.

## Social assistance

This helps people who cannot work. **Social assistance** is things like cash and goods. This kind of help lets families get food and other basic goods and services.

## Social security

There are a few **social security** schemes in Zambia. They pay out money to people as long as they have paid into them by paying taxes while they were working. They work as insurance. For example, the National Pension Scheme Authority, which is also called NAPSA, or the Workers Compensation Fund. But, most people earn a living from the **informal economy**. These people are not registered, they do not pay taxes nor do they pay into pensions. They cannot get **social security** payments.

## Social services

These are the services like education, health, water and **sanitation** that everyone should get.

## Social protection

**Social protection** is policies and practices that look after and help people, especially very poor people.

## Stakeholder

This is a person or a group who affects our work or may be affected by our work.

## Subsidy

This is part of **social assistance**. It is when the government or an organisation gives a business money to keep the price of an item or a service low.

## **Voluntary groups or sector**

These are groups that are not part of government that do not make money out of their work. Examples are community groups, **voluntary groups**, charities, co-operatives and housing associations.

## **Vulnerable groups**

These are the people who cannot easily cope when things go wrong. They include children, pregnant women, elderly people, persons with disabilities, people who are ill and poor people. Many people in these groups are vulnerable, but not everybody.





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